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## BUILDING AMAZING CITIES

By JIM HUNT  
*author, speaker, consultant*

### A trip to where Mother's Day began

Like most West Virginians, I have heard the story of Anna Jarvis starting the Mother's Day celebration to honor her mother, back in May of 1907 at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton. On a recent visit to the Grafton City Hall, I spoke to Larry Richman, the city clerk, and he volunteered to give me a tour of the Mother's Day Shrine. Larry is such a reservoir of the history of Grafton and the Mother's Day Shrine and I felt fortunate to have access to such detailed knowledge. A short walk down the street from City Hall is the red brick church that houses the shrine and the neatly maintained grounds that feature a beautiful sculpture of a mother and child.

The large wooden doors of the church swung open, and we walked into the lower floor of the church and passed several offices before entering a large room with beautiful stained-glass windows. There were pictures displayed and numerous mementos of the history of the Mother's Day Shrine and of Grafton and Taylor County. Most notable were the numerous Mother's Day plates, like those that adorn the homes of many mothers throughout the country.

Larry Richman pointed out that several versions of the plate were manufactured at the former McNicol China Company that was located in Clarksburg. I assumed that I had seen most of the shrine and was ready to walk back outside when Larry asked if I wanted to go upstairs. While walking up a narrow staircase was not the most desirable for my aging knees, we headed upstairs.

Larry pointed out a hinged area that he opened and noted that it was hinged in order to bring caskets up the steps. I couldn't believe that a casket would fit up the narrow stairway but even more, I wondered "Why would they go upstairs anyway?"

In a moment, I realized that the church was located on the second floor and that the downstairs room was not the main part of the church. A large pipe organ was the first thing you see, as well as a beautiful altar with the most incredible artwork I have ever seen in my travels throughout West Virginia. The stained-glass windows in the upstairs chapel were even more amazing than those on the first floor. You could hardly believe that this piece of history was this well preserved. It felt like a trip back in time, to a hundred years ago. The pews were original and were perfectly aligned and Larry pointed out that several years ago, they replaced all of the screws that held the pews to the floor, in order to keep things consistent.

While Grafton is a good bit smaller in population than it was many years ago, there is an energy in the city that is infectious. Under the leadership of the Mayor and City Council, the city has been busy with reimagining the city and removing blighted structures. City Manager Kevin Stead is one of the veteran city managers in the state and has done a great job in leading his staff and revitalizing this interesting city.

If you want to see a part of our nation's history, visit the Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton and enjoy this wonderful treasure. You will never think of Mother's Day the same after visiting and seeing where it all began, in the Amazing city of Grafton.

## New Council takes oath of office



The new Shinnston City Council consisting of, from left, Pat Kovalck, Max Palmer, Amanda Sayers, Vice-Mayor Mary Ann Ferris, Julia Currey, Mayor Rodney Strait, and Bill Watson took the oath of office on Friday, July 1. The new members, who were elected in the June 7 municipal election, are Palmer, Sayers, and Currey. Kovalck was also re-elected in the recent election, but he did not pursue the mayoral position. Courtesy photo.

## Council brainstorms about burned property

By Maralisa Marra

At last week's City Council meeting June 27, city officials discussed how to move forward on the issue of the Charles Street property owned by Charleston company NAJ, LLC.

City Manager Chad Edwards said the property, which was destroyed by fire, is one of many neglected properties owned by the company. He is considering the idea of reaching out to other affected municipalities to collectively sue the company.

"You do it all at once, the whole state, and then we can get the state looking better and hopefully grow our population a little bit," he said.

Over several months, beginning in February, city officials planned to sue the company, decided not to sue if the company agreed to hand over all NAJ-owned property in town, then considered suing once again upon learning the company had purchased yet another property in Shinnston.

In his update to the council last week, Edwards said, "Trey is not in favor of us pursuing a lawsuit," referring to City Attorney Trey Simmerman.

Edwards said that even if the city does sue NAJ, LLC, Simmerman advised him that there is no guarantee that the company will not be able to buy more property within city limits.

According to Edwards, many cities have had similar issues with NAJ, LLC buying up properties then neglecting them like the property on Charles Street. He said since other cities are having the same problem, he has toyed with the idea of speaking with Simmerman about all of the municipalities affected

suing the company together. Edwards said NAJ, LLC also has property in Lumberport.

NAJ, LLC has not responded to multiple requests for comment.

Outgoing Mayor Patrick Kovalck said, "This is where the Municipal League ought to step up," because he said they have the ability to lead a class action lawsuit. The West Virginia Municipal League is a statewide association of city governments that provides assistance to cities and also advocates on their behalf at the state Legislature.

Council discussed other ideas, including fining the company \$100 a day or police delivering a warrant for them to appear in court. Edwards said NAJ, LLC had neglected to show up to municipal court after a previous code violation.

Councilmember Mary Ann Ferris said she was concerned about how to deliver the warrant to the Charleston company. Chief of Police Jon Harbert said, "I would gladly go serve a warrant on those type of people because they do nothing but cause more problems for anybody's community," but he also agreed with Kovalck about suing the company through the Municipal League.

In other matters, Edwards said the paving of Simon Drive is a priority and Spring Street should be repaired soon. A meeting was scheduled with Ferguson Waterworks about the water meter installation issues for Thursday, June 30.

Kovalck said, "It has been an honor, it really has, to be your mayor," as he commenced his term as mayor. He also handed out over 25 keys to the city to people who'd been supportive and helpful through his tenure.

*At last week's City Council meeting June 27, outgoing Mayor Patrick Kovalck awarded over 25 keys to the city to those who have supported and helped him during his term. Some of those honored included those pictured below. Courtesy photos.*



Bill Watson



Dave Minor for Lions Club



Jason & Tammy Martin



Randal & Kim Nuzum



Debbie Harbert



Jay Harmer



Jeff Chalfant



Leigh Merrifield



Mayor Kovalck & Family



City Clerk Kathleen Panek



City Manager Chad Edwards



Police Chief John Harbert



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Guest Column By Charlotte Lane

It's time to sign up for utility budget payment plans

By Charlotte Lane

Chair of the West Virginia Public Service Commission

It is all over the news: inflation and unexpected high bills. We are all experiencing significant financial uncertainty with rising prices, supply chain issues, COVID-19 and other challenging disruptions around the world.

Natural gas utilities are required to file 30C cases with the Commission each year to reflect changes in the purchased gas components of their rates. Those cases are due to be filed the first of August.

Unfortunately, an increase in gas utility bills is unavoidable this year, but there is something you can do to lessen the sting.

Most of the natural gas utility companies in the state offer some sort of budget payment plan. When you sign up, the company will look at your gas usage over the past 12 months, normalize the usage based on weather experiences and calculate an average monthly bill for you based on the company's current rates.

Budget billing plans allow you to avoid the stress of unexpected, extraordinarily high bills. More predictable bills make budgeting easier.

Budget payment plans are an optional tool offered by the utility companies. If you do enroll, you must make your payments on time to continue to stay on the plan and avoid a late charge.

I participate in the budget payment plan offered by my utility provider. It may be worthwhile for you to explore, too. This one act of planning can add some certainty in our uncertain world.



THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

July 7, 1928: The Madonna of the Trail monument was dedicated in Wheeling. It is one of the 12 such statues erected along the National Road to honor America's pioneering women.

July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement.



Johnnie Johnson. Courtesy photo.

July 8, 1924: Rock 'n' roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as "Roll Over, Beethoven." Berry's hit "Johnny B. Goode" was written as a tribute to Johnson.

Super Crossword SIX-T EIGHT

- ACROSS 1 Big name in small planes 7 Passage leading to an aural drum 15 Sign into law 20 Despicable 21 Cessation 22 Six-Day War leader Dayan 23 Starting something over, figuratively 26 Bottom line 27 "You — My Sunshine" 28 U.S. intel org. 29 See 106-Across 30 Question the Devil asks in a Kipling poem 39 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange" 41 Leave high and dry 42 — pot (sinus-cleaning device) 43 Wolfs down 46 — wheel (fair ride) 48 Final resting places 52 Cause heads to turn 56 Yule tune 57 Wheel center 58 Turn rancid 60 Norma — (film heroine) 61 Nickname for Connecticut 71 River to the Rhone 72 Senseless 73 Drop by 74 Recent times 81 Wheaton of "Stand by Me" 82 Singer Bareilles 83 G.P. or vet 84 War god 86 Giving a rigorous tryout 97 Play a ukulele, e.g. 99 Boastful talk 100 Cigar-holding container 101 Huge, informally 104 Chucked 106 With 29-Across, neo-soul singer with four Grammys 107 What's accurate about a situation 113 City NNE of Lake Tahoe 114 — -Z 115 Courtroom promise 116 On top of, to poets 119 It closed all 130+ of its U.S. campuses in 2016 128 Wall work 129 1973-99 Lima-based carrier 130 "The Wizard of Menlo Park" 131 Conjuring aid 132 Encroach on another's land 133 Novelist du Maurier 12 "Stillmatic" rapper 13 Narc, e.g. 14 Gives access 15 Outback bird 16 Symbol for written music 17 "Ad — per aspera" (Kansas' motto) 18 Mass singers 19 Principle 24 Mutt's sound 25 Despicable 31 Bit of crying 32 Ward of TV 33 Wilson's predecessor 34 Weight allowance, once 35 Yesteryear 36 Brought into the world 37 Troop group 38 "The Addams Family" cousin 39 Actress Kirshner 40 Home pest 44 Cavern effect 45 Daze 47 Spanish ayes 49 Swamp 50 "Get lost!" 51 Precip-ice? 53 "Six-pack" 54 Texter's hugs 55 Cloister sister 59 "Please reply," in brief 61 Jeans go-with, often 62 Dog following its owner closely 63 Suffix with south 64 Co. VIPs 65 Uncle, in Argentina 66 Pol. middle-of-the-roader 67 — chi 68 Little — (kids) 69 Vietnamese New Year 70 Actress Carrere 71 "— a Very Good Year" 75 Spy's device 76 Capote, to his friends 77 Courtroom promise 78 Big whoop 79 Chris of "Sex and the City" 80 "Ac-Cent- — -Ate the Positive" 85 Bottom line 87 Dog with Dorothy 88 "What business is — yours?" 89 Magazine mogul Condé 90 Lillian of film 91 Grove growth 92 Give forth 93 Pitchfork part 94 Cincinnati Reds player in the Baseball Hall of Fame 95 "... or — gather" 96 Song syllable 98 Sea, to Yves 102 Avocado dip, informally 103 To boot 105 Barely passing grade 107 Prunes 108 In a snit 109 — nous 110 Sharpener of skills 111 Many mag pages 112 Schleppe 117 School on the Thames 118 Thinker Descartes 120 Kay-em link 121 Wrath 122 Bus. firms 123 Extra for an iDevice 124 Grassy area 125 Taxing org. 126 Ore- — 127 Advice tidbit

Crossword grid with numbers 1-133 and black squares indicating non-letter positions.

Find the Super Crossword Answers on Page 7!

July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period.

July 10, 1769: Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics.

July 10, 1936: The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for hottest temperature on record, which had been set August 4, 1930, at Moorefield.

July 11, 1867: John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia.

July 11, 1976: Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center. The structure was built to showcase the Mountain State's artistic, cultural, and historic heritage.

July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the public. More than 50,000 schoolchildren from 50 West Virginia counties and 21 counties in surrounding states visit the center each year.

July 13, 1861: The Battle of Corricks Ford took place in Tucker County. Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett was killed. He was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; 304-346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.



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# Sen. Manchin: VA Medical Centers safe from future cuts for now

By Steven Allen Adams, Ogden Newspapers  
WV Press Association Sharing

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin said the committee created to review cuts to rural veterans' hospitals across the U.S. – including three of West Virginia's VA medical centers – has been brought to a halt.

Speaking in front of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument on the grounds of the State Capitol Building on June 27, Manchin, D-W. Va., said the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will not vote on a slate of nominees submitted by President Joe Biden last week for the Department of Veterans' Affairs Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission.

The nine-member AIR Committee is tasked with reviewing recommendations released by the VA in March. The AIR Report recommended a nearly \$2 trillion proposal for closing as many as three medical centers and 174 outpatient clinics, while shifting focus to rehabilitation, long-term care and other services aimed at older veterans.

"I've got the whole committee on board, so we're just shutting down everything," said Manchin. "No appointments. No confirmations. So, they're dead in the water."

As part of the AIR recommendations, Huntington and Clarksburg VA medical centers would stop offering inpatient medical and surgical services, instead partnering with local hospitals and health care facilities. The Huntington and Clarksburg VAMCs' emergency departments would convert to urgent care centers.

The AIR Report recommends constructing a new VA medical center to replace the Beckley VAMC, but the new facility would not offer the same inpatient medical and surgical services. Instead, the new Beckley VAMC would have a new community living center, adult day care and offer non-surgical outpatient services.

Manchin, with U.S. Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., Mike Rounds, R-S.D., and Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., reintroduced the Elimination of the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission Act in May. The bill was first introduced in 2019. Manchin said he is working with Rounds and others to have the bill included in the next version of the National Defense Authorization Act.

"Mike Rounds, my compadre Republican, my friend from South Dakota, felt the same as I felt. So, in 2019, we introduced the bill to get rid of AIR," Manchin said. "We're going to put that bill on the NDAA. That kills it in the code."

Capito joined a bipartisan group of U.S. senators later Monday afternoon in releasing a joint statement praising the halt of the AIR Commission and announcing their opposition to the VA's recommendations.

"As senators, we share a commitment to expanding and strengthening modern VA infrastructure in a way that upholds our obligations to America's veterans," Capito said. "We believe the recommendations put forth to the AIR Commission are not reflective of that goal and would put veterans in both rural and urban areas at a disadvantage, which is why we are announcing that this process does not have our support and will not move forward."

The AIR Commission has until Jan. 31, 2023, to revise and send a new list of recommendations to the president, who then has until March 30, 2023, to approve the recommendations and send them

to Congress. Lawmakers would have 34 days to pass a joint resolution of disapproval, otherwise, the VA would be required to implement the recommendations.

Manchin said the goal of the 2018 VA MISSION Act that required the AIR Report and created the AIR Commission was a well-intentioned effort to address issues in the last decade with wait times at hospitals. However, Manchin said the VA is now overcorrecting in the opposite direction by reducing services and pushing veterans to local health providers. Manchin said the recommendations come down hard on rural areas where health care services are limited.

"We're looking to improve it; we're not looking to eliminate," Manchin said. "In these rural areas and rural states like ours, you barely have enough medical services to take care of the general population. The VA always gets special care, and it should. Anyone who puts on a uniform and is willing to give their life for you and I for the freedoms we have should be at the front of the line getting the best of services."



From left, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, Veterans of Foreign Wars Adjutant/Quartermaster Kevin Light, Department of Veterans Assistance Secretary Edward Diaz and Department of Veterans Assistance Chief of Staff Randy Coleman talk after Manchin's AIR Commission announcement at the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Charleston. Photo by Steven Allen Adams.



**Guest Column**  
By Kent Leonhardt

## Investments in local food vital to fend off shortages

By Kent A. Leonhardt  
West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture

After serving twenty years as Marine Corps intelligence officer and five years as the commissioner of agriculture, it's easy to identify trends that have the potential to affect the security of the United States. One trend not being discussed enough is the current level of stress on our food system. Despite our effort to instill resiliency through local agriculture, our leaders have been slow to act. At the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, our worry has always been there may be a time our citizens face higher food prices and potential shortages that could threaten nutrition security. Unfortunately, like most crises, we only respond when the danger is imminent rather than implementing preventive measures in advance. Coming out of a pandemic that shut down food manufacturers, our country now faces higher energy prices, supply chain issues and rising inflation. Combine this with the military conflict in Ukraine, we are now looking straight into a perfect storm.

Day one of the Biden administration entailed a poor energy policy that has not only reversed former trade victories by President Donald Trump but also tripled gas, diesel and fertilizer prices. And with increasing inflation following government spending, now farmers

and truckers are feeling the squeeze on their budgets, forcing many to quit their jobs and hindering the American production of goods.

As the world has shifted towards global markets, we are increasingly reliant upon other nations for commodities. Any disturbance can have an enormous effect on our way of life. For example, Ukraine is rich in farmland and produces an estimated 13% of the world's food calories. As the conflict disrupts their ability to farm, areas reliant on their products will seek other countries to fill the gap. That will strain the world food supply, drive up demand and increase prices for U.S. products. The conflict only compounds the other problems our country faces.

Other agriculture leaders now recognize that higher energy prices, inflation, bad trade deals and conflict overseas leaves us open to a potential food crisis. Although we may not face famine in our country, many of our citizens could face food insecurity. Rural communities will be hit hardest by this crisis, as lack of access and income become a barrier to nutrition. Fortunately, the United States is the second-largest producer of agriculture products, so we retain the ability to feed our citizens, but that depends on our ability to get energy prices and inflation under control. Pressure will increase with the cost of inputs forcing the American farmer to choose between shipping goods to areas of highest demand and profit or feeding our citizens.

Despite the inaction from our own state leaders, my team and I have worked to further develop our local food systems. We have rebranded and created new benefits for the West Virginia Grown program, and if funded, we would be able to further help our farmers market their products and expand operations. We have passed laws that deregulated bakery and non-potentially hazardous food items and eliminated burdensome local oversight at farmers'

markets. Laws such as the Fresh Food Act, which mandates government-funded institutions source 5% of food commodities from local farmers, create investment opportunities. We have also passed two West Virginia Farm Bills to modernize and update agricultural code. What we are missing is true, hard dollar commitments to those who grow our food.

The good news is it's not too late to respond and mitigate this looming crisis. Our legislators can invest in agriculture, as well as provide relief to our citizens through COVID and surplus dollars. What we must avoid is spending our excess revenue on pet projects. Instead, we need to focus on building resiliency in our state's economy. This includes providing relief to residents by reducing taxes to help cover rising costs and spur economic development. It also includes providing funding to build more self-sufficiency in our local food economy. If our leaders are slow to act, it's my advice you prepare for your family's future by growing your own food. You won't regret it.



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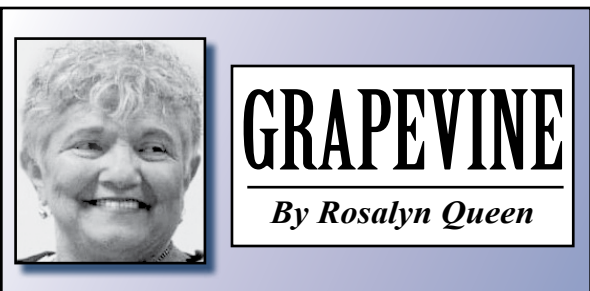
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### Get others involved

Last Thursday, June 30, the Progressive Women's Association held its All American Women of Distinction Luncheon to honor ten women in our area who make a difference with their volunteer efforts in our community. All American Women are honored every year in June.

This month's celebration coincided with Memorial Day and the Fourth of July.

A welcome was extended by Clarksburg Mayor James Marino, and plaques were presented to the honorees by Betty Waddy, Marino, and Davis Funeral Home Sponsor Rev. Harris. The blessing was given by PWA member Ruby Oldaker.

Marla Ferree, marketing director for the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, delivered the keynote message to the honorees and guests. She thanked the honorees for their volunteer efforts in our community and challenged them to get others involved.

The mission of the PWA is to provide opportunities to empower individuals in their personal advancement that will enable them to impact their community. They also have the Young Progressive Women's Association for young women, and the Young Men's Progressive Association for young men in our community.

For more information about these programs call Elinda Carson at 304-624-5881.

With the world's situation, I hope you took time to observe the Fourth of July and that you gave thought to how you might do something to make a better world and community. We are still the best country in the world, and many people have given their lives to protect us. We say a big thank you to those individuals.

Enjoy summer, stay safe, take care, and until next week, "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."



## Local students complete nursing academy



Connor Tingler, of East Fairmont High School, receives a certification of completion of the West Virginia Nursing Academy hosted by the Fairmont State University College of Nursing on June 29. Courtesy photo.

Local high school students interested in pursuing careers as professional nurses participated in the West Virginia Nursing Academy hosted by the Fairmont State University College of Nursing, which took place June 27 - June 29, according to a news release.

Students completing the academy were honored at a closing ceremony on June 29, where each student was presented with a completion certificate.

The aim of the West Virginia Nursing Academy was to introduce students to experiences and opportunities available to nurses while establishing an education path leading to a professional career in nursing.

"Nursing academies allow students to learn side by side with nurses in different healthcare facilities across the state to better understand the role that nurses play in the healthcare process," said Fairmont State University Assistant Professor of Nursing, Jenny Wilson.

Fairmont State University Professor of Nursing, Tina Reed, explained the nursing academy was also established at the university to combat the nurse shortage.

"Right now, sometimes the nurse-to-patient ratio is one to six or seven," Reed said. "Our first goal is patient safety. We want to be able to have more nurses come into the field, so we can safely take care of patients, and so that

nurses don't get burned out." Students completing the three-day academy included:

- Jenna Casto - East Fairmont High School
- Gabrielle Fike - East Fairmont High School
- Garrett Goolie - Fairmont Senior High School
- Abigail Hess - University High School
- Gracyn Marsh - East Fairmont High School
- Lillian Rubenstein - Fairmont Senior High School
- Rayden Satterfield - North Marion High School
- Abigail Shuck - Fairmont Senior High School
- Alexandria Stoneking - Bridgeport High School
- Connor Tingler - East Fairmont High School
- Makena Webb - Robert C. Byrd High School

"Our overall goal is to take care of the patients in West Virginia, our surrounding communities and globally, as possible," said Fairmont State University College of Nursing Dean, Laura Clayton. "Providing the best-educated nurses is important to us."

The nursing academy was funded through a grant from the West Virginia Center for Nursing.

For more information about the Fairmont State University College of Nursing, visit [www.fairmontstate.edu/collegeofnursing](http://www.fairmontstate.edu/collegeofnursing)

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# BUSINESS MATTERS

## Jimmy's Diner named Business of the Month

By Maralisa Marra

Jimmy's Diner has been a Shinnston community staple for over 36 years. Owner Jimmy Salerno has dedicated the greater portion of his life to the success of the family business.

"I thank my family," Salerno said, "They step up to the plate—my sisters Marie and Pam, my nieces and nephews."

Jimmy's has deep Italian roots beginning with his grandparents who were originally from Italy. Salerno said that in 1980 his Aunt Rosie built the building in which the restaurant resides, hence the name of the delectable Rosie sandwich.

"My Aunt Rosie had the Dewdrop

Inn," Salerno said. "That was in the 60s to 70s until she moved over to Shinnston. That's where the sandwich became famous at." The Dewdrop Inn was in Pine Bluff, but the love for the sandwich quickly grew in Shinnston.

The Rosie sandwich consists of Salerno's grandmother's homemade Italian sausage with peppers and cheese; lettuce, tomatoes, and mayonnaise; or all of those ingredients on a seven and a half inch or five-inch bun, according to Salerno.

Along with the Rosie, spaghetti is also a local favorite. "We have our own homemade meatballs. Everything is homemade," Salerno said.

Jimmy's has sponsored various Jerry West Basketball teams, and over the years, they have fed Lincoln High's football team on various occasions. Salerno still makes a point to do so at least once a year.

"We try to donate as much as we can to the schools and the businesses," Salerno said.

Salerno also shared one of the diner's goals for the near future. "We want to have a dinner one night, and bring all the people that have businesses that have supported us and helped us out," he said, "We want to invite all of them and have a thank you dinner."



Jimmy's Diner, owned by Jimmy Salerno, is open Wednesday through Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m. and offers a Sunday buffet. It's located at 1121 Hood Ave. Courtesy photo.



Along with its Sunday buffet, Jimmy's Diner also offers catering for groups. Courtesy photo.

Jimmy's Sunday buffet always has two homemade meats, two potatoes, two vegetables, cake, and salad for \$13.99. "It [the buffet] is getting bigger every Sunday," Salerno said.

However, Salerno said the diner does not have the business to do specials anymore. "But if the business comes back, I'll start it [again]," he said.

Salerno said the business lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic has yet to return, but they are persisting to rebuild their clientele.

Jimmy's Diner is open Wednesday through Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m., and on Sundays they are open from 11 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Salerno also said, "Mondays and Tuesdays we're closed, but if I found help, I would open."

Jimmy's also offers catering to all events in or out of the diner. Salerno said that the restaurant can be reserved and they can cater to a large party, or the party can reserve the space and bring in their own food, as well.

He also said that if he could find some extra help to hire that the diner could start opening at noon. They are looking for a cook and a dishwasher.

Stop by Jimmy's at 1121 Hood Ave. for one of the famous Rosie sandwiches or inquire about joining their team!

## Trulieve welcomes reality star to Morgantown-Granville dispensary

By Matt Young

WV Press Association News Sharing

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Ahead of its planned public opening, Trulieve – one of the nation's largest distributors of medical cannabis – recently held an exclusive "first look" at their Morgantown-Granville Dispensary.

The dispensary, which will have a grand opening on July 9, will serve as Trulieve's flagship West Virginia location. Ethan Zohn, National Spokesperson for the company's "Momenta" brand, and winner of the reality-television program "Survivor: Africa," served as host for the event.

"I got hooked up with Trulieve about a year and a half ago," Zohn told media members present at the June 1 event. "And when they said they were coming out with their first in-house wellness brand, that was interesting to me."

In 2009, Zohn was diagnosed with a rare form of Hodgkin's Lymphoma, which is, as he explains it, "the kind of cancer that young people get." Zohn was just 36 at the time of his initial diagnosis.

While his cancer returned several years later, Zohn has been in remission since 2012.

After learning of Trulieve's plans to release the Momenta wellness brand, Zohn – who was scheduled to participate in April's running of the Boston Marathon – saw it as a unique opportunity to raise awareness as to the health benefits associated with cannabis. As someone who knows firsthand the physical and mental relief cannabis can provide to those suffering from legitimate medical conditions, Zohn presented Trulieve with a most intriguing thought.

"What if I ran the Boston Marathon while medicating with Momenta?" Zohn suggested.

As explained on Trulieve's website, "Momenta, currently available in Florida, Massachusetts and West Virginia, empowers patients to enhance their everyday wellness routines through cannabis by naturally enhancing the connection to the body, mind and spirit."

Zohn also ran the marathon in support of "AKTIV Against Cancer," an organization dedicated to the inclusion of physical activity in standard cancer

treatment. Although April's appearance marked Zohn's first time completing the marathon, it was not his first attempt. In 2013, Zohn was forced to exit the race at the 24-mile mark due to the terrorist bombings.

In addition to his winning turn in 2001's Survivor: Africa, as well as his less successful returns to the series in 2004's Survivor: All Stars, and 2019's Survivor: Winners at War, Zohn was a standout player in the United Soccer Leagues (USL) where he tended goal for the Hawaii Tsunami and Cape Cod Crusaders, respectively.

During his cancer treatments, and prior to the general acceptance of medical cannabis as part of treatment plans, Zohn struggled with the side effects brought about by the daily regimen of synthetic medications. Cannabis offered relief from those side-effects but was not readily – or legally – available at that time.

"I was out on the streets of New York, you know – bald from chemotherapy," Zohn said. "And I had

See "Trulieve" on Pg 8.



Morgantown-Granville General Manager Jonathan Franklin, Executive Director of Retail Teresa Kish and West Virginia Area Manager Heather Peairs gather at the new Trulieve Morgantown-Granville location. Courtesy photo.

## Fairmont State's Academy for the Arts receives grant from Truist foundation

Fairmont State University's Academy for the Arts has received a \$10,000 grant from the Truist West Virginia Foundation to provide need-based scholarships to be applied to student tuition for camps, classes and private lessons throughout the summer and 2022 – 23 academic year.

"We are incredibly grateful for this gift from the Truist West Virginia Foundation," said Fairmont State University Director of Performing Arts Outreach and Development, Leigh Anne Riley. "Providing scholarship opportunities for students within our communities allows us to increase access to quality training and exposure to the arts. We understand that many in our area are experiencing financial hardships, and we aim to address such needs and support these families and individuals through the utilization of these grant funds."

Fairmont State University's Academy for the Arts offers

educational programming to Marion County residents and the surrounding region. The Academy for the Arts also aims to increase access to programming through the introduction of supplemental virtual instruction options.

"Truist is committed to our purpose to inspire and build better lives and communities, and we believe the Truist West Virginia Foundation contribution to Fairmont State University will help make a difference in the lives of many," said Jacqueline Keene, executive director for the Truist West Virginia Foundation.

Both full and partial scholarship options are currently available for students from ages ranging from toddlers to adults. For more information, visit [www.fairmontstate.edu/academyforthearts](http://www.fairmontstate.edu/academyforthearts). To access a scholarship application, contact [Lbolyard1@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:Lbolyard1@fairmontstate.edu) or 304-333-3655.

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## The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor  
Sports Editor

### The WV Open; former WVU coach joins Hall of Fame

The 89th West Virginia open was recently played at Stonewall Resort. An epic battle took place before Christian Brand would eventually outlast David Bradshaw to claim his third open championship.

It was a come from behind victory for Brand who trailed Charles Town's Mason Kidwell by a pair of strokes after the first round. Kidwell shot a sizzling -5 and was joined by only seven other golfers to shoot under par on day one.

The second day of play was moving day and cut day all rolled into one which made these 18 holes crucial. Brand and Bradshaw went north. Unfortunately for Kidwell, he went south. Kidwell shot five over to get back to even par for the tournament.

Brand and Bradshaw were the only players to go low on the high end of the leader board. Both were -3 on day two and stood at -6 tied at the top, three shots clear of Thadd Obecnycy II from Wheeling.

Area notables that made the cut were Bridgeport's Michael Gervais, Brian Bailey, and Marco Oliverio; Fairmont's Jess Ferrell and Clark Craig; Morgantown's Corey Dillinger, Sam Berry, Kurtis Grant, Josh Arbaugh, Jack Lindgren, and Aaron Gizzi; Weston's Matt Gissy; and Grafton's Adam Ware.

Brand had to come from behind a second time in the in the tourney ladder during final round play. Bradshaw birdied #3 which triggered a furious run from Brand. The Scott Depot native made three straight birdies just before the turn. Brand extended his lead to five strokes after 12 holes.



## From The World of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

### Summer program paperwork is for kids' protection

In my experience as deputy director working for the Harrison County Parks Department, the biggest challenge we face during this time of year is consistency with other programs. Right now, we provide the recreation for the Aim High program conducted by the Harrison County Board of Education. The program overlaps with our summer parks program and sometimes when you mix things together, it can be oil and vinegar, or it can be gas and water. Director Mike Book knew that things would be squeaky at first, but after a little oil was added, things are starting to run without any friction.

Some of the problems with collaboration lie in registration. People would like it to be a simple application that handles all departments. This is not the case as students in both the school and parks programs have to fill out both forms in order to be officially registered for both. The reasoning for the duplication is in the forms. The B.O.E. has its rules and regulations while the parks may need some additional info in order to comply with its own regulations. Book explains the headaches early on with these issues.

"We are happy to be working with the Board of Education as our longstanding relationship not only includes summer programs but the enrichments during the calendar year. And yes, things are kind of cumbersome with all the forms that the parents and guardians must fill out. But those forms are to protect your kids who are under our eye in the

Bradshaw bounced back capitalizing on Brand's double bogey on #13 with a birdie to make it a three-stroke swing. Brand recovered and birdied the next two holes to finish -10, three strokes better than Bradshaw.

Bradshaw was the reigning champion heading into this year's event and has won 12 championships in total. Brand's previous wins came in 2014 and 2015.

Other notables that finished in the top 40 were Dillinger (T-30), Gervais (T-30), Ferrell (T-32), and Berry (T-41).

The big winner was the staff at Stonewall Resort. The leadership and work ethic displayed was remarkable. The smoothness in which everything was ran alongside the exceptional condition of the course made this year's edition top shelf.

Former West Virginia University Head Men's Basketball Coach John Beilein has been tabbed to join the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. Beilein is in good company with other fellow coaches in this year's class: Lon Kruger, Jerry Krause, Jim Calhoun, and Roy Williams.

Beilein came to Morgantown at the perfect time to save the program. Gale Catlett resigned abruptly after the 2002 season when allegations put heat under his backside concerning payments made and owed to star player Jonathan Hargett. Enter Dan Dakich as the new head man, exit Dan Dakich eight days later.

In dire need of stability, A.D. Ed Pastilong hired Beilein. In his fifth year at the helm of the Mountaineer program, Beilein recorded his best record in Morgantown. The 'Eers were 27-9 and won the NIT Championship. The next year, Beilein bolted for Michigan and guided the Wolverines to a pair of National Championship games.

His departure from Touchdown City was all but forgotten when Bob Huggins slid into his place. Beilein has long been known as a coach of character, and his approval rating was and still is higher than most.

That will do it for now. Until next week...take care and God Bless!

afternoons. Families just have to be patient and please fill out the forms even though some of those are repetitive as we want to make sure we have all the information needed in case of an accident."

For example, Nutter Fort Elementary links with our department as there is a playground behind the school that has been the host of the summer parks program for over a decade. Kids in the B.O.E. program will show up early for breakfast, then link up with teachers at the school for programming. And, right after lunch, they are sent to the park for recreation. The key to the funding is to have all things consistent with the school's requirements during its calendar year.

The game plan is to provide activities for kids to do during the summer break. In past years, the parks program was the lone game in town as hundreds of kids would flock to sites throughout the county in order to have some fun during the school break. And almost 30 years ago, AmeriCorps and West Virginia University joined to form Energy Express, a summer reading program used to help kids maintain or increase their reading levels while off from school. All programs are working simultaneously and that has caused some confusion with parents wanting to give their kids a place to spend their summers.

"Just like anything new, it is going to have some bumps in the road," said Book. "The biggest amount of phone traffic we receive involves questions about how the programs are working together and for those who are not in the program, where can they find a full-day camp without the school or AmeriCorps programs. Parents will get it soon enough and they should feel fortunate that there are multiple activities for the kids."

We hope that those in the school programs would move to one of our few full-day camps once the four weeks is up for the school programs. For parks, the program is six weeks long and those who would like to move over to one of the full-day sites once the school program ends are more than welcome.

## State Director of West Virginia Small Business Development Center named

After nearly a decade of service at the West Virginia Small Business Development Center, the agency announced, in a news release last week, that Steve Johnson will be its next state director.

Johnson has served the WV SBDC in many roles including business coach, network coordinator, and most recently deputy director. He also has more than 25 years of small business ownership experience.

"After working with West Virginia's incredible small business owners over the last nine years, I am honored to take this position and guide the WV SBDC as it continues the vital work of helping our state's small businesses start, expand and succeed," Johnson said.

A native of Huntington, Johnson earned his bachelor of business administration from

Marshall University and his master of business administration from Wayne State College in Nebraska. His professional certificates include certified global business professional and certified business advisor.

The WV SBDC, which is an accredited partner program with the U.S. Small Business Administration and a division of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, helps small businesses at all stages of development by connecting owners to programs, resources and coaches. WV SBDC business coaches have professional certifications ranging from exporting, innovation, technology and economic development, to finance, management, marketing and entrepreneurship. For more information about WV SBDC services and WV SBDC coaches, visit wvsbdc.com.



Christian Brand of Scott Depot. Courtesy photo.

## Brand claims third West Virginia Open golf title

In a closely fought battle, Christian Brand of Scott Depot took the title at the 89th West Virginia Open over defending champion professional David Bradshaw of Harpers Ferry by three strokes, according to a news release.

The event was held June 22- 24 at Stonewall Resort.

Brand finished the tournament at ten under par 206, while Bradshaw scored a seven under par 209. Brand previously won the championship in 2014 and 2015, while Bradshaw is a 12-time champion.

Brand's comment after tying Bradshaw at the conclusion of the second day proved to be prophetic. "The expectation is to win tomorrow," said Brand. And he did.

Christian Brand now joins an elite group of players in West Virginia golf history to have three or more West Virginia Open wins, including Bill Campbell, Sam Snead, David Bradshaw, Barney Thompson, Scott Davis, Clem Wakeman, Ed Tutwiler and Mike White.

"Let me give a sincere thank you to Stonewall Resort for being such a great host for this 89th playing of the West Virginia Open Championship," said West Virginia Golf Association (WVGA) Executive Director Brad Ullman. "Christian is a great champion and we are excited to have him back and playing golf in our state."

Other highlights today saw Brand and Christian Boyd of Charles Town each scoring seven birdies, Philip Reale of Hurricane and Nick Fleming of Cabins each scoring six birdies and Will Evans of Charleston scoring five birdies.

Rounding out the top ten finishes are:

Third – Thadd Obecnycy II (p) of Wheeling at (-3) 213;

Tied for fourth at (-1) 215 – Nick Fleming of Cabins; and Sam O'Dell of Hurricane;

Tied for sixth at (+3) 219 – Brian Anania of Hurricane; Howie Peterson of Weirton; and Cam Roam of Huntington;

Tied for ninth at (+4) 220 – Christian Boyd of Charles Town; Kenny Hess (p) of Parkersburg

Legendary professional golfer Sam Snead holds the record for the most WV OPEN victories at 17.

## Tee it Up!

By Bill Nestor

Sports Editor

This week's edition took us to the Arnold Palmer Signature Course at Stonewall Resort. In its twentieth season, this exceptional course hosted the 89th West Virginia Open. It was their first time hosting this prestigious event and many golf fans felt that it was long overdue.

I was fortunate enough to meet Arnold Palmer when he came to Stonewall Resort for the grand opening, and you could sense the pride he had in regard to this tract and its layout.

There are multiple tees that range up to 7,149 yards from the tips providing both a challenging and rewarding day of golf for players of all skill levels. This par 72 venue owns a pair of par 3s and par 5s along with four par 4s on both the front and back.

Risk versus reward opportunities are scattered throughout but none more than #14. The par 4 is just 249 yards from the upper tee which entices golfers to attempt to drive the green.

My favorite hole is #16, a par 3 from an elevated tee box that owns water on the right and trouble on the left.

What separates this course from others is the attention to detail from the incredible staff. From the practice facilities to the 18 holes, the workers are meticulous in their work. The pride shown there by the condition of the course can be found everywhere you look.

After your round, multiple 19th hole options are available, and if you stay overnight, there are additional activities to take your visit to the next level.

Stonewall Resort provides a chance for you to reward yourself with the best experience available.



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# OBITUARIES

**Anna Jane Ashmore**

**Michael Allen Baker**



Anna Jane Ashmore, 84, of Wallace, passed away on Friday, June 24, 2022, at her residence. She was born in Wallace, March 3, 1938, a daughter of the late Frank E. and Opal E. White Wolfe. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard L. Ashmore on August 18, 2014.

Surviving are her children: Thomas E. Ashmore of Manassas, VA, Betty J. Ashmore at home in Wallace, and Rebecca A. Miles and her husband Mark of West Union; her grandchildren: Kristin Ashmore and her companion Jeremy of Manassas, VA, Matthew Ashmore and his wife Emily of Bealeton, VA, Sarah Miles of West Union, and Devin Miles and his companion Jaqui of Baltimore, MD; her great-grandchildren: J.T., Destiny, Kaitlyn, ShyAnne, Abby, and Richard; one brother: James L. Wolfe and his wife Dawn; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and her special friends who were like family: Larry Bennett, Rebecca Gump Jones, and Ruth Sendling.

Anna was also preceded in death by one son, Richard L. Ashmore, Jr. and her siblings: Charles "Jack" Wolfe, Doris Compton, and Raymond Wolfe.

Anna was employed as a "Lunch Lady" for the Wallace Grade School, Wilsonburg Grade School, Lumberport Middle School, and Lincoln High School until her retirement in 2000. She was a member of the American Legion Auxillary, Post 31, Shinnston, the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 929, Shinnston, and the Wallace First Baptist Church. She also enjoyed playing bingo.

The family received friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28. A graveside service was held at the Shinnston Memorial Cemetery on Wednesday, June 29 at 11 a.m. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Ashmore family.

Michael Allen (Mike) Baker, 62, of Haywood, passed away Monday, June 27, 2022, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Michael was born November 27, 1959, in Clarksburg, a son of the late Raymond O. (Boone) Baker and Lucille M. Baker

Michael is survived by one daughter, Melissa (Derrick) Bunnell of Hepzibah; one son, Timothy Fitzwater of Clarksburg; three grandchildren: Aiden Williams, Keslynn, and Braelynn Bunnell all of Hepzibah; one brother, Raymond (Kim) Baker Jr. of West Milford; one sister, Traci Gregory of Haywood with whom Michael made his home with, and several nieces and nephews.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Michael H. (Pitzer) Baker; brother, William L. (Bill) Baker; sister, Robin L. Baker; and one brother-in-law, Mark Gregory.

Michael was a graduate of Liberty High School. He was a retired electrician having worked for David B. Morris Electric, and most recently, as an independent electrician.

Michael loved spending time with his family and putting together model rockets and airplanes.

Per his wishes, Michael was cremated.

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

**Billy Lee Wright**



Billy Lee Wright, loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, age 61, of Shinnston, passed away at United Hospital Center on June 28, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was born November 2, 1960, in Fairmont to the late William Wright and Doris (Gregory) Wright. Billy is survived by his wife, Barbara Wright, whom he married December 2, 1995. Also surviving are his children William Lee Wright of PA, Diana Nichole Moore of Lumberport, Regina Rector of Shinnston, Paula Winans and husband Brian of Shinnston, Linda

Vanscoy of Hepzibah, Sherry McElroy and husband Paul of Spelter, and Jamie McIntyre and husband Joe of Clarksburg; grandchildren Sunni Moore, Sierra Moore, Clayton Moore, Lilly Moore, Josh Rucker, Joseph Rucker, Andrea Fedio, Allison Winans, Sarra Coleman, Christopher Rector, Brittany Stire, Jeremy Halpenny, Courtney Halpenny, Bella Burkhammer, Nicholas Bosley, Krista McIntyre, and Marcus Rucker. Billy also had several great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sisters Diana Holcomb, Darlene Shaw, Joyce Mackey, Patty Jo Frederickson, and Judy Moore; brother Danny Cunningham; and grandson Raymond Eggleston.

Billy worked for Schindler Elevator Co. at WVU and was a member of IUEC Local #48 for forty years. He enjoyed fishing and spending time with his elevator brothers.

He was loved and will be missed by all.

Friends were received at Harmer Funeral Home on Thursday, June 30 from 3-8 p.m.

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

**Mabel L. Kovar**



Mabel L. Kovar, 89, of Clarksburg, passed away on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at her residence. She was born March 19, 1933, in Clarksburg, daughter of the late Leroy C. and Emma Mae Williams Jones.

Mabel worked in the food services for several years and Brockway Glass for four years. She was Baptist by Faith.

Mabel is survived by three children: Mike Frank Kovar and wife Shelia of Glen Falls, Natula Rose Echard and husband Orville Jr. of Falconer, NY, and Daniel J. Kovar and his wife Simone of Glen Falls; six grandchildren, Orville "Bug" Echard, III and his wife Penny, Nicole Kovar, Alisa Wiant and her companion Chris Bumgardner, Thomas Echard, Michelle Clark and husband Roger, Amanda Echard, Brittany Jahn, Brock McIntire, and Tyler McIntire; thirteen great grandchildren: Josh, Orville, IV, Austin, Anthony, Auchtavious, Davey, Cody, Maddix, Ryan, Zack, Tommy, Ayla, Aubree; and several

# Out Of The Past

**Memorable Photographs from around Harrison County.**



A copy of an image depicts a Fourth of July Parade in Shinnston, taken near the corner of Pike Street & Rebecca Street. Photo courtesy of Bobby Bice.

## WVU to host virtual open house for nurse anesthetist program

The West Virginia University School of Nursing is hosting a virtual open house for the doctor of nursing practice nurse anesthetist program Thursday, July 28 at 6 p.m., according to a news release.

During the event, attendees can hear from program director Dr. Aaron Ostrowski and assistant director Dr. Mike Frame.

While the virtual open house is open to anyone interested in becoming a nurse anesthetist, recruitment specialist Phillip Engelkemier says the event will be most beneficial to individuals who have completed their bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) at a minimum and are considering applying for the program within the next year or two.

"Prospective students will learn about application deadlines, requirements, the admissions and decision-making processes and cost, along with a detailed overview of the curriculum," Engelkemier said.

Register online at [https://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dhatbNS6dlgikUS](https://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dhatbNS6dlgikUS) to receive Zoom information.

For additional information, email Phillip.Engelkemier@hsc.wvu.edu.

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## Super Crossword

Answers

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## “Appalachian Fairy Tale” filmed in Harrison County to premiere

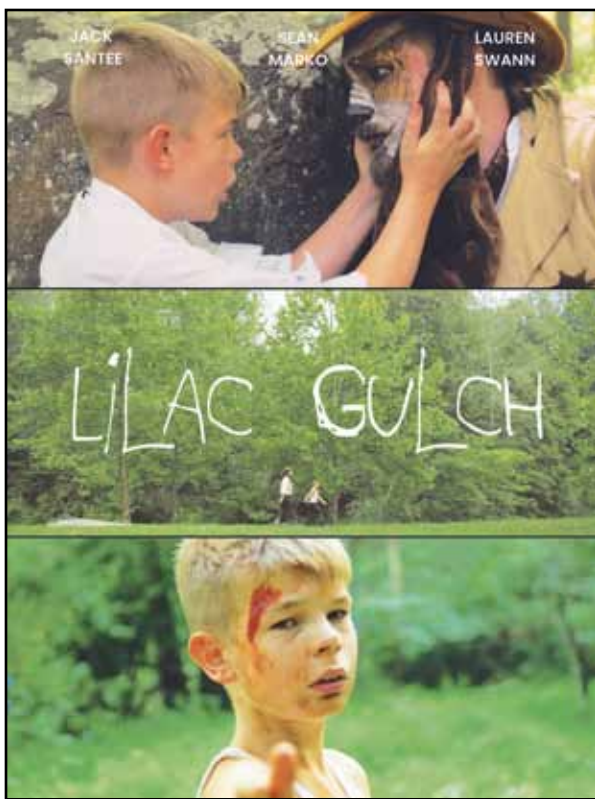
The Robinson Grand announced, in a news release, the world premiere of Big Think Pictures’ dramatic short film Lilac Gulch: An Appalachian Fairy Tale on Friday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. at the historic Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center, located at 444 W. Pike St. in Clarksburg.

“Lilac Gulch” is the story of a runaway 12-year-old boy and his recently reimagined childhood friend as they traverse the untamed wilds of the Appalachian countryside on a magical quest for a place where parents never die. Filled with wonder and adventure, “Lilac Gulch” is a tale of grief, loss, and ultimately hope viewed through the lens of childhood.

“Lilac Gulch’ is an endearing love letter to West Virginia,” said Jason A Young, the Robinson Grand’s consulting program manager. “It was filmed right here in Harrison County with a cast and crew made up entirely of West Virginia artists.”

Big Think Pictures is a locally grown production company, owned and operated by West Virginia native Christopher Swann. Big Think Pictures is dedicated to telling uniquely Appalachian stories for, by, and with the people shaped by these hills.

“Lilac Gulch’ began, so I thought, as a fairy tale for my son, an exploration in dealing with and expressing difficult emotions,” said writer and producer Christopher Swann. “But shortly after its inception, I began to realize that I had actually written a story for myself and the unspoken hurdles I was facing with my



own sick mother.” The world premiere event will feature the film screening followed by a question and answer session with the stars of the film, Jack Santee, Sean Marko, and Lauren Swann, as well as members of the creative team from Big Think Pictures, Geminye Studios, and The Vintage Theatre Company. “I was incredibly lucky to have worked with many very

talented people both behind and in front of the camera, and even luckier that my mother, who recently celebrated the one year anniversary of a lifesaving transplant, will be in attendance at the premiere,” said Swann.

The premiere is free and open to the public as a part of First Fridays in Downtown Clarksburg. The doors will open at 6 p.m. on Aug. 5 and the film will begin at 7 p.m.

## WATER OPERATOR

The City of Shinnston, WV is seeking applicants for the position of Water Operator in a WV Class 2 facility. This employee performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled technical work in the operation and maintenance of municipal water production. The position requires rotation of on-call and weekend and will be expected to work overtime as required. Under the direct supervision of the Chief Water Plant Operator, the worker is responsible for operating and maintaining equipment at the water treatment plant; assisting in gathering data, performing tests and generating reports; assisting in ordering materials and supplies; and performing other related functions as assigned or apparent. Assists in the operation and periodic inspection of equipment at the water treatment plant. Maintains equipment, process tanks, buildings, and grounds in a clean and orderly manner. Obtains water samples and performs simple standard chemical and process control tests. Monitors and/or inspects numerous process control parameters for proper operations. Assists supervisor in maintaining and reviewing accurate maintenance records and monthly reports.

**Minimum Requirements:** High School Diploma or equivalent; Valid WV driver’s license with clean record, a valid Class 1 Operator license in the State of West Virginia or ability to obtain Class 1 Operator license within 6 months. Class 2 water operator license preferred.

**Desirable Qualifications:** Experience with water & sewer piping/repair. Operation of large equipment; mechanical / technical skills experience in water / wastewater. Prior experience working for a municipality (public works, public utilities).

Starting wage range will be dependent upon licensure. Obtain an application from the City of Shinnston website @ <http://www.shinnstonwv.com/>. Interested candidates are required to submit an application with supplemental information to: City of Shinnston, 40 Main Street, Shinnston, WV 26431. Applications will be accepted until the vacancy is filled with those received by July 21st earning first consideration.

*The City of Shinnston is an equal opportunity employer.*

## “Truelieve” From Pg 5.

In addition to his winning turn in 2001’s Survivor: Africa, as well as his less successful returns to the series in 2004’s Survivor: All Stars, and 2019’s Survivor: Winners at War, Zohn was a standout player in the United Soccer Leagues (USL) where he tended goal for the Hawaii Tsunami and Cape Cod Crusaders, respectively.

During his cancer treatments, and prior to the general acceptance of medical cannabis as part of treatment plans, Zohn struggled with the side effects brought about by the daily regimen of synthetic medications. Cannabis offered relief from those side-effects but was not readily – or legally – available at that time.

“I was out on the streets of New York, you know – bald from chemotherapy,” Zohn said. “And I had to go to a drug dealer – the kind that sells all the drugs. I just wanted

medicine that would help me with cancer.”

While tragic, Zohn’s story is not uncommon. This is why, according to Truelieve West Virginia Area Manager Heather Peairs, cannabis education is so important.

“We are here to educate,” Peairs said, during an interview on May 2. “We are all about putting the patient first. We get involved in the community – we get out there to provide that education to anyone wishing to listen or ask questions. We understand that there are people who may not be comfortable

with what we do and what we provide. But the one thing I really want to stress is that we are here to educate.”

Coming just a month after successful openings in Parkersburg and South Charleston, Truelieve’s Morgantown-Granville flagship marks their fifth retail dispensary in West Virginia. Truelieve holds a total of 10 dispensary permits across the Mountain State. In addition to the dispensaries currently operating, Truelieve has plans to open locations in Belle, Huntington, Hurricane and Milton.



**Ethan Zohn, national spokesperson for Truelieve’s “Momenta” brand, and winner of the reality-television program “Survivor: Africa,” made an appearance at Truelieve’s new flagship cannabis dispensary in the Morgantown-Granville area. Courtesy photo.**

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